

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

1C

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TO: ACTION BRANCH

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1-17- We returned this to files on 28 October 1965.

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TRACE REQUEST		ABS	INDEX	FILE NUMBER (PRIMARY CODE)
DATE MICROFILMED				DOCUMENT DATE 8 April 1952
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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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OFFICER'S
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read as follows:*

*O" Hicog (State Dep't)
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May 1948

BIOGRAPHIC DATA

SECRET-SECURITY INFORMATION

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HIGOG

1952-26

SRP

STUDY

No 70

Post: HIGOG Bonn

Date prepared: February 8, 1952

Apr 8, 1952

Copies to: (see end of report)

Reporting officer: L. H. Petterson

Name: FINKE August Hermann Peter SCHILLINGS
(Surname) (Given names) Aliases or variants)

Nationality: German Title: former Oberregierungsrat

Present position: 1st Chairman, SRP Lower Saxony

Date appointed: 1950

August Finke was born August 12, 1906 in Oldenburg. He now lives in Varel, Elisabethstr. 3. His religion is Lutheran. Finke studied law at the Universities of Goettingen and Berlin and received his Dr. jur. in 1936. As a court assessor he was assigned to the Security Police Headquarters in Berlin in 1935. Called to military service in 1938, he spent four months attached to an anti-aircraft division in Oldenburg as a corporal and officer candidate. Later he served as liaison officer between the Security Police and the regular police during the annexation of Austria.

A member of the Security Service (SD) of the SS from September 1935 to May 1945, Finke worked first in the Foreign Intelligence Service of the SD, drawing up plans for the establishment of the SD Intelligence Service abroad. In 1938 his department became Amt IV of RSHA (Reich Main Security Office). He participated in a training course in 1939 and shortly thereafter was promoted to Regierungsrat. He later served in Amt VI headquarters and was given charge of the department dealing with espionage.

In May 1942 Finke was assigned to Stockholm, ostensibly to assist the German commercial attache but actually to set up a branch of the German Intelligence Service in Sweden. In February 1944 he was appointed police attache in Stockholm and was promoted to the rank of Oberregierungsrat later in the year. Eventually he became too well known in Stockholm and was openly referred to in the Swedish press as the head of the Gestapo in Sweden.

Because of his notoriety it became necessary for him to leave Sweden. One report gives his date of departure as October 1944 and another as February 1945. His four sons remained in Sweden. When questioned about his intelligence work at the end of the war, Finke maintained that he had not engaged in espionage and that he had picked up only such information as was available at any street corner. The interviewer described him as a cultivated, amiable man who was no doubt well suited to the German intelligence service.

SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

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Finke joined the NSDAP and the SS in November 1931. By 1944, he had attained the rank of Sturmbannführer. He also had the privilege of wearing the Totenkopf ring. Arrested in Copenhagen in June 1945, Finke was held in custody by the British at Neuengamme and later turned over to the No. 6 CIC. In Denmark he had used the name and identification of Peter Schillings, born September 4, 1905 in Berlin. A German denazification court classified him as a Class III offender on November 26, 1947. A few weeks later he was released from internment. As of July 1951, he was still unemployed.

In December 1950 Finke was reported to be Land chairman of the SRP for Lower Saxony. In May 1951 he was elected to the Lower Saxony Landtag on the SRP ticket. In July 1951 he was officially elected 1st chairman for Lower Saxony by a vote of 62 to 5. As Land chairman, he is also a member of the federal level Parteirat, and in addition he is a member of the party's federal executive committee.

Nicknamed "Landesaugust" by his SRP colleagues in Lower Saxony, Finke follows the party line by his laudatory references to the "good old times" of the Nazi period. He has at various times and in various places been banned from making public speeches. The SRP bulletin Zeitung of December 1951 quoted Finke as referring to the "spirit of the new time" engendered by the revolution of 1933. The movement, he maintained, received new impetus from the Landtag elections of May 6, 1951. Finke furthermore predicted that the movement will eventually regain its former size.

In a speech which he delivered at Norden, Ostfriesland, on April 17, 1951, Finke made the following statements (as quoted in an SRP pamphlet on the SRP):

"With the cooperation of all decent Germans we shall one day build up Germany again. Before 1933 we said that we wanted to improve the situation of the German people, and we did so. I am not ashamed of having fought for that and will continue to fight. No one needed to go cold or hungry then. In 1933 we came to power with the voices of the people. In 1945 these men were brought before a court as an entire group, since individually there was nothing against them. This was done in order to convict them, although there were no grounds. This conviction took place because they belonged to the party. We do not want revenge, although we have grounds for revenge."

Also in his Norden speech, Finke termed accusations that Germany had been the aggressor in World War II a prevarication. He maintained that up to 1933 Germany had wanted to follow a common path with the Western world. "Therefore", he added, "we were compelled to take up our arms so that we would not be oppressed."

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